

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. _____

135-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: May 28, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

Subject: MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2004

As reported on May 26, 2004 at the City Commission meeting, the Memorial Day 2004 Holiday Weekend (Thursday, May 27, 2003 – Monday, May 31, 2003), is expected, once again, to bring thousands of visitors to our beautiful City. The City of Miami Beach has been planning diligently to prepare a comprehensive and coordinated Major Events Plan (MEP) for the upcoming holiday weekend to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our City. As part of the plan, the City will continue its efforts to seek cooperation with respect to the City's quality of life and order maintenance laws.

Attached, you will find the Community Notice that is being disseminated to the area residents and businesses, outlining the events taking place at public venues. Additionally, this notice provides the community with insight into the City's planning efforts vis-à-vis enhanced staffing during the weekend, the Goodwill Ambassador Program, the Transportation Plan and information on how to contact the Tourism Hotline if they should have any questions.

Once again, the City of Miami Beach along with the American Legion Post No. 85 will be hosting the annual Memorial Day Ceremony honoring the men and women of the United States military who have given their lives in the service of our Nation. The ceremony will be held at the Miami Beach Police Station on Washington Avenue on Monday, May 31st at 5:00 p.m. You are all encouraged to attend and participate in the ceremony.

Please feel free to contact me throughout the weekend if I can be of assistance.

JMG:CMC

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CITY OF MIAMI BEACH OFFICE



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH Community Notice

Memorial Day Holiday Weekend 2004

The City of Miami Beach is committed to providing excellent public service to all who live, work and play in the City and works hard to ensure that basic quality of life issues are supported so that everyone can enjoy this wonderful destination. Memorial Day Weekend is expected, once again, to bring thousands of visitors to our beautiful City. The City of Miami Beach has been planning diligently to implement a comprehensive and coordinated Major Events Plan (MEP) for the upcoming holiday weekend to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our City. As part of the plan, the City asks for everyone's cooperation and respect in maintaining that special quality that Miami Beach holds.

Miami Beach Events at Public Venues

Lummus Park Beach:

Umoja Culture Festival celebrating African culture and unity will be held on the beach between 10th and 13th streets from Saturday, May 29, Sunday, May, 30 and Monday, May 31, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Estimated attendance: 30,000. (*Downtown Miami will also be hosting Umoja events throughout the weekend.*)

Miami Beach Police Station:

Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday, May 31, 5:00 p.m., Police Color Guard, City officials, and U.S. veterans.

Resources

The City is working with other agencies to ensure that resources are appropriately allocated for this holiday weekend. The City will enhance its personnel, including Police, Fire, Code Compliance, Beach Patrol, Parking, and Public Works (Sanitation and Property Management), throughout the weekend beginning on Thursday, May 27. Miami-Dade County Police and other County Departments, Florida Highway Patrol and Department of Justice will also be assisting our City.

Goodwill Ambassador Volunteers/God Squad

Over a hundred Goodwill Ambassadors will be assisting the City during the holiday, as they have during other recent major events. The primary role of these civilian volunteers is to serve as a buffer or liaison between the police and the visitors to the City during major events and busy holiday weekends. The teams will be wearing bright gold T-shirts identifying themselves as Goodwill Ambassadors. God Squad members will also be assisting during this weekend and can be identified by their orange/red shirts.

Transportation and Parking

Ocean Drive (5th – 15th streets) will be open to vehicular traffic throughout the weekend unless closure is required for public safety and crowd control measures. Beginning Thursday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. through Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00 a.m., access to the east/west streets between Washington Avenue and Ocean Drive will be restricted. The 200 block between Ocean Drive and Washington Avenue (5th – 15th streets) will be restricted to local resident parking only.

In the event a street closure of Ocean Drive is necessitated: valet operations on Ocean Drive will be relocated to Collins Avenue and all valet operations on the east side of Washington Avenue will be relocated to the west side of Washington Avenue.

Vehicular traffic on the MacArthur Causeway will be closely monitored. Vehicles traveling on Washington Avenue between 5th Street and Lincoln Road will be deterred from entering the neighboring residential neighborhood. Residents can enter their neighborhood from 5th Street (south), Alton Road (west) and 17th Street (north).

Tourist Information Hotline:

A 24-hour information hotline (305-673-7400) is in operation. For more information, go to www.miamibeachfl.gov. Miami-Dade County will be providing a brochure to welcome our visitors, providing a map and important contact information, and explaining some of the City's and State's laws.

To request this material in accessible format, sign language interpreters, information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation to review any document or participate in any city-sponsored proceeding, please contact 305-604-2489 (voice) or 305-673-7218 (TTY) five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).